

→ → Acceler8 ← ←

**THE 8th GRADER'S GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR
HIGH SCHOOL AND LIFE BEYOND**

The latest information on:

- Using your EXPLORE results report
- The "Come on More!"
- High school scheduling
- Volunteering!
- Web links

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**COLLEGE FRESHMAN
CLASS OF 2008**

➡ **WIN a \$500 Scholarship!** ⬅
See back cover for details.

Louisiana Board of Regents for Higher Education

Welcome to "Acceler8," a publication aimed at helping you, a college-bound eighth grader, make the choices that will ensure that you are ready to meet the challenges of pursuing a college education.

One important reason we've created this supplement to your "NEXT" magazine is to remind you that in just two years, new admissions requirements for all Louisiana public, four-year universities will take effect. That means that if you plan to attend a Louisiana university, you need to begin preparing now to expand your options after high school graduation and qualify for a TOPS scholarship.

Among other things, this publication includes valuable information on the new admissions criteria, why taking the "Core or More!" is right for you, and information on how to make the most of your EXPLORE assessment.

We hope you will read this publication, clip it into your school binder or pin it to your bulletin board and refer to it regularly as you prepare for college. We believe it can be an excellent tool for helping you make the most of your school years – and your life!

Our Louisiana institutions look forward to welcoming you as the freshman class of 2008!

Sincerely,

Joe Savoie

Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education

It's YOUR life!

Use your **EXPLORE** results to see YOUR world of possibilities and prepare for high school now!

As an 8th grader, you've taken the EXPLORE test to learn what your natural interests and talents are. Your EXPLORE results can help you figure out which courses to take in high school AND help you prepare for the career that's right for you.

Use your results to make the best decisions in high school.



Use Your EXPLORE Score Report to Help Prepare for the Future

EXPLORE is designed to provide you with a roadmap for achieving your educational goals. The test is only one measure of what you know in English, math, science reasoning and reading. The assessment shows you how your skills in these subjects compare to where they should be if you expect to be prepared for college when you graduate from high school. Using your EXPLORE Student Score Report as a guide, you can take steps to strengthen your achievement in areas where you need improvement.



Below are samples of the EXPLORE "Student Score Report" and the "World-of-Work Map" (which is on the back of the Score Report). To learn how to use these valuable tools, read the "It's Your Future! Student Guide to EXPLORE," which was provided to you with your EXPLORE test results. If you did not receive your test results, please ask your counselor for assistance.

explore STUDENT REPORT

ACT MIDDLE SCHOOL School Code: 99999999

TAYLOR, ANN Grade: 08 Form: 828
SSN/ACT ID: 123456789 Test Date: 10-2002
Date of Birth: 04-09-89 Internal Form Group: Fall 89th

Read It! Your Future! To learn more about what these results mean, you'll also find some good ideas for exploring your choices for school and future jobs or careers.

2 Your **EXPLORE** Score: Your **EXPLORE** score is the average of your four test scores. National Rank shows how your scores compare with those of students in your national score group. Identified above show that your Composite score is below the national rank. Your scores are somewhat, not very, low. If you are not prepared for college when you graduate from high school, you may need to improve your scores. You can improve your scores by taking more practice tests, studying harder, and taking more classes. You can also improve your scores by taking more practice tests, studying harder, and taking more classes.

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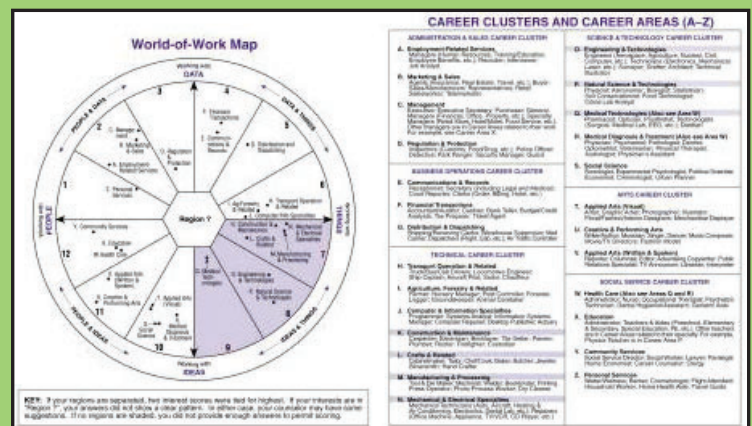
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Student Score Report

The EXPLORE "Student Score Report" can help you determine your strongest subjects and areas where you need improvement. The report can also help you match your academic strengths with future employment possibilities. Ask a parent, teacher or counselor to help you use your Student Score Report.

World-of-Work Map

The "World-of-Work Map" can help you choose a career. The map doesn't determine what type of work you will do, but it can help identify careers that may be of interest to you. Ask a parent, teacher or counselor to help you use the map.



Why You Need the “Core or More!”

To meet the minimum admissions standards recommended by the Louisiana Board of Regents and required by the state's universities, you must have completed 16.5 high school course units from a list of core courses and approved electives. Students who complete this core curriculum have also taken the first step in becoming eligible for TOPS.

Earn a TOPS Scholarship

If you graduate with a 2.5 GPA or higher in your core high school courses, achieve specified ACT scores, and attend college in Louisiana, your tuition can be PAID FOR!

FACTS To the Core

Fact: The Core is required for admission to a Louisiana public university.

Fact: The Core is required to qualify for TOPS.

Fact: Successfully completing the Core substantially increases your odds of college success.

Fact: Louisiana seniors in the class of 2002 who took at least the Core earned an average composite score of 20.5 on the ACT Assessment, while those who took less than the Core earned an average score of 17.2.

REGENTS CORE CURRICULUM

The 16.5 required high school course units are:

English: 4 units

- English I, II, III and IV

Mathematics: 3 units

- Algebra I (one unit), or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units)
- Algebra II (one unit)
- Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Pre-Calculus, Algebra III, Probability and Statistics, Discrete Mathematics, Applied Mathematics III (formerly referred to as Applied Geometry), or comparable advanced math (one unit)

Natural Science: 3 units

- Biology (one unit)
- Chemistry (one unit)
- Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, General Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology (one unit)

Social Science: 3 units

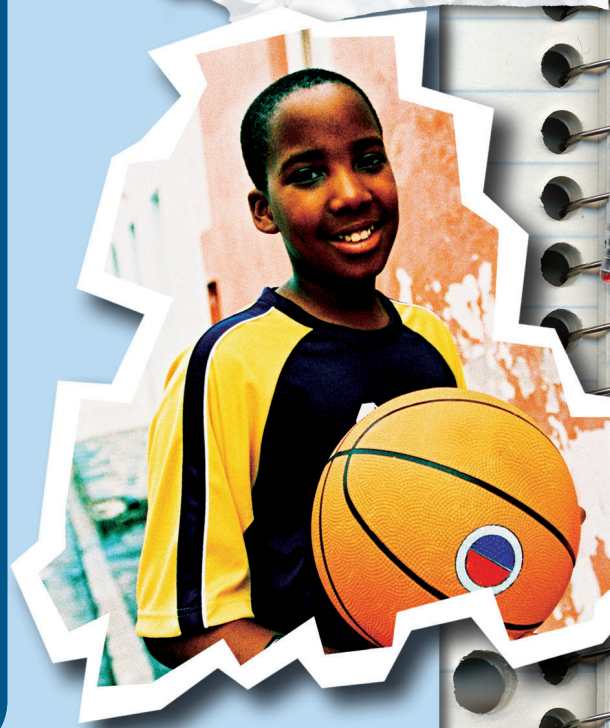
- American History (one unit)
- World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit)
- Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit, non-public)

Fine Arts Survey: 1 unit (or substitute two units of performance courses in music, dance and/or theater; or two units of visual art; or substitute two units of studio art; or substitute one unit of an elective among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum)

Foreign Language: 2 units in the same language

Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer Applications: 1/2 unit

(or substitute an elective course related to computers approved by the state including either one unit of Computer/Technology Applications, Computer Architecture, Computer Science I or II, Computer Systems and Networking I or II, Multimedia Productions or Independent Study in Technology Applications; or a 1/2 unit of Computer/Technology Literacy, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Animation or Web Mastering; or a 1/2 unit as an elective from the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).



Use this chart to keep track of your progress in completing the **"Core or More!"** in high school. Just remember, meeting these minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to a specific university. Some universities may require additional courses.



How to use this chart:

- In the first column, write the name of the class you've taken.
- When you complete the class, write down the number of units earned and the grade.
- Keep up with your GPA (grade point average).
- Save this chart!

SUBJECT	8TH GRADE (if applicable)		9th GRADE		10th GRADE		11th GRADE		12th GRADE	
	Unit	Grade	Unit	Grade	Unit	Grade	Unit	Grade	Unit	Grade
English 4 units										
Mathematics 3 units										
Natural Science 3 units										
Social Science 3 units										
Fine Arts Survey 1 unit										
Foreign Language 2 units										
Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer Applications 1/2 unit										

[illegible]

"Get in Gear...Volunteer"

These are some of the best times of your life. Excitement builds each year as you and your friends look forward to graduation and the prospect of continuing your education beyond high school. But it's important to remember that there's a great big world out there full of people who may not be as fortunate as you -- and problems and issues that need everybody's attention. That's why it's never too early to start looking for opportunities to serve your community. This need is so crucial that many high schools and colleges across the country have begun to include community service as part of their admissions or graduation requirements.

Listed below are some suggested starting points for getting involved in community service. Also talk with your parents, counselor or clergy about ways you can give something back to your community. And once you do get involved, be sure to keep a record of your volunteer activities. Your volunteer service record will be a great addition to your college scholarship application.

Here's a few of the volunteer agencies and opportunities to look for in your area:

*United Way
*Elementary Schools

*Churches
*Boys and Girls Clubs

*Food Bank
*City "Clean Teams"

You can also find detailed contact information and opportunity listings for volunteer agencies in selected cities across Louisiana by visiting the LASERVE Web site at www.crt.state.la.us/laserve/VolunteerLinks.html or the Points of Light Foundation Web site at www.pointsoflight.org.



ARE YOU READY? ...WORK READY!



Louisiana has designed a portable credential that signifies to an employer that an individual has the

basic skills necessary for success in the workplace. The Louisiana WORKReady! Certificate is based on three of ACT's WorkKeys® assessments: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information and Reading for Information.

For more information on WorkKeys®, Louisiana WORKReady! or the WORKReady! Certificate, contact the Board of Regents at (225) 342-4253.

Louisiana WorkReady! Certificate Levels

Skill Area	Gold	Silver	Bronze
	80% of jobs	50% of jobs	30% of jobs
Applied Mathematics	5	4	3
Reading for Information	5	4	3
Locating Information	5	4	3

Students must score at or above the minimum score listed in each core area to receive the particular LWR! Certificate.

RESOURCES FOR EIGHTH GRADERS

FUN WEB SITES

Sure the Internet is a great source for information and homework help, but there's plenty of stuff out there that's just plain fun. Here are a few sites we think you will find particularly entertaining...

FUNOLOGY

Just like the name says: www.funology.com

JAM

Perfect for anyone who's into music, with news, reviews, photos, concert schedules and just about everything else about your favorite musicians:
www.canoe.ca/JamMusic/home.html

THE WEEKLY FREEBIE COMPILATION

The coolest and craziest free stuff on the Internet:
www.weeklyfreebie.com

Classic Games

The largest assemblage of free head-to-head competition on the Web: games.yahoo.com

How Stuff Works

A really cool site where you can find out how just about anything you can think of works: www.howstuffworks.com

Teen Online Resources

Lots of links and online resources for teens (yeah, some of it's serious, but we still think you'll like it):
www.kidsolr.com/teenresources



Win a \$500 Scholarship!

Mail in this form by December 31, 2003, for a chance to win a \$500 scholarship to be deposited in a Louisiana START college tuition savings account in your name. START is Louisiana's valuable college tuition savings plan.

For more information on the Louisiana START program, visit the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) website at www.osfa.state.la.us.

Name _____

Grade _____ School _____

Home Address:

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home telephone _____

Mail to:
START Drawing
Louisiana Board of Regents
P.O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677

The drawing is being sponsored by LELA, the Louisiana Education Loan Authority. For more information on how LELA can help you pay for your college education, check out their ad on page 27 of your Next magazine, or visit their Web site at www.LaNext.com.



→ Cool Book →

"Middle School Study Skills," by John Ernst
Check with your local bookstore or an online bookseller.